

INFORMATION LETTER

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CANNING CROP FORECASTS

Government Issues Estimates Based on Conditions as of August 15th

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics on August 25th issued reports on the indicated acreage and production of tomatoes, sweet corn and snap beans for manufacture, based upon conditions as reported by canners on August 15th, from which the following information is taken:

Snap Beans

Snap bean production prospects have declined about 2 per cent during the first two weeks of August and a tonnage of 102,600 tons is indicated by canners' August 15 reports. This compares with the 1936 estimated production of 76,500 tons and the 5-year (1928-32) production of 73,100 tons.

The yield indicated on August 15 of 1.60 tons per acre compares with the 1936 estimated yield of 1.52 tons and the 10-year (1923-32) average yield of 1.58 tons per acre. The slight improvement in yield prospects for the scattered States of Arkansas, Colorado, Maine and Oregon was about offset by declines in Maryland, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

State	Production		
	5-year average 1928-32		Indicated 1936
	Tons	Tons	Tons
Maine	2,500	3,000	4,500
New York	12,400	11,100	13,900
Pennsylvania	3,400	2,900	3,800
Indiana	1,900	1,300	2,400
Michigan	4,900	6,500	9,400
Wisconsin	8,500	6,300	11,200
Delaware	1,700	1,200	1,000
Maryland	10,200	13,700	14,300
South Carolina	1,200	100	700
Tennessee	2,000	1,300	2,800
Mississippi	2,200	1,200	800
Arkansas	1,900	700	3,000
Louisiana	1,900	900	1,800
Colorado	4,500	2,300	2,500
Utah	2,000	2,000	2,500
Washington	1,900	2,800	3,300
Oregon	2,100	7,600	11,200
California	2,000	3,700	3,000
Other States*	5,900	7,900	10,500
Total	73,100	76,500	102,600

* "Other States" include: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Sweet Corn

Indications point to a record production of 1,087,900 tons of sweet corn for manufacture according to canners' August

15 reports. This compares with the low production of 606,700 tons estimated for 1936 and the 5-year (1928-32) average production of 628,000 tons.

The yield indicated by August 15 reports of 2.40 tons per acre compares with the 1936 estimated yield of 1.63 tons and the 10-year (1923-32) average yield of 2.13 tons per acre. The decline in yield prospects during the first two weeks of August was mainly confined to the States of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska.

State	Production		
	5-year average 1928-32	1936	Indicated 1937
	Tons	Tons	Tons
Maine	38,000	60,800	66,500
New Hampshire	2,700	2,700	2,700
Vermont	4,100	3,200	3,200
New York	33,300	37,300	62,200
Pennsylvania	8,500	21,100	18,800
Ohio	45,400	37,300	62,800
Indiana	57,600	39,600	110,400
Illinois	131,700	117,000	246,200
Michigan	7,800	5,800	12,300
Wisconsin	23,900	25,800	44,800
Minnesota	101,400	100,000	192,500
Iowa	95,000	41,200	128,800
Nebraska	9,800	8,800
Delaware	6,300	10,600	9,400
Maryland	48,200	78,200	82,300
Tennessee	6,400	7,800	7,300
Other States*	7,900	18,300	28,900
Total	628,000	606,700	1,087,900

* "Other States" include: Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

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F.S.C.C. to Buy Utah Tomatoes

The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation has announced that it will purchase 50,000 cases of No. 2½ Utah canned tomatoes at \$1.75 per case, which represents the commercial price less normal discounts, in order to reduce the surplus stocks from last year's pack now in the hands of Utah canners and at the same time afford growers an outlet for increased quantities of tomatoes this year.

Canners who sell canned tomatoes to the Corporation will be required to extend the closing date of this year's contracts with growers so that they can take from growers deliveries of raw tomatoes equivalent to the amount of canned tomatoes bought by the Corporation.

The canned tomatoes bought by the Corporation will be used for relief purposes and will be marked "Not to be Sold—For Free Distribution."

TOMATO JUICE PRODUCTION

Suggestions for Prevention of Dilution and Reduction of Mold Count

It is a matter of common information that when live steam is used for heating a product, the heat transferred to the product results in the condensation of a portion of the steam. If this condensed water flows away from the heated product, as when tomatoes are heated on a wire mesh belt in the usual scalding, no appreciable dilution occurs. On the other hand, when the condensed water flows into the receivable or conveyor with the product, a substantial amount of dilution results, the amount depending on the number of degrees through which the product is heated. It will be remembered that the tomato juice extractors formerly used were based on this latter principle, and a number of consignments of tomato juice were seized by the Government because of the resulting dilution with water.

In Information Letter No. 609 (July 11, 1936) attention was called to an announcement of the Food and Drug Administration concerning these seizures, which warned packers that this practice was illegal and if it were not abated future seizures would be made.

In the same announcement, attention was called to the fact that the tolerance of 50 per cent in the mold count of tomato products was unnecessarily high for tomato juice, and that after that date, the tolerance would be limited to 35 per cent. This is the maximum tolerance for tomato juice however it may be manufactured.

In this connection, it should be remembered that the mold count of tomato juice may be higher when the product passes through a very fine screen than when it is more coarsely screened. Relatively large clumps of mold which appear to pass through an ordinary cyclone screen readily, are sometimes broken up into smaller particles by a finisher, so that the mold count after finishing may sometimes be higher than before. This is particularly true with tomato juice which has been homogenized. When tomato juice made by the usual methods of manufacture, with a mold count of 35 per cent is passed through a homogenizer, the count may be increased to 50 or even 60 per cent. This is particularly true when the mold in many fields occurs in relatively large clumps.

In this connection, it should be remembered that the tolerance of 35 per cent is regarded by the Food and Drug Administration as especially liberal for tomato juice. It is believed that when adequate sorting is given the raw product, the mold count of tomato juice made by the ordinary methods of manufacture will be far lower, so that even when it is passed through a homogenizer, the count will still be within the Government tolerance of 35 per cent.

To Investigate Charges for Protective Services to Perishable Freight

The Interstate Commerce Commission has announced that it is about to undertake an investigation into and concerning the justness, reasonableness and lawfulness of the charges of all common carriers by railroad subject to the Interstate Commerce Act applicable under section 5 of the perishable protective tariff to the protection against cold

of perishable freight from and to all points of origin and destination in continental United States, and into and concerning the character, extent and cost of such protective service with a view to prescribing such just and reasonable charges therefor as may appear to be warranted. It is not contemplated that hearings will be held prior to January 1, 1938, but notice is given at this time in order that all parties concerned may have ample time in which to prepare such data as they may consider desirable and necessary for presentation in evidence.

Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

Carrot Shipments as Reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture

	Week ending—				Season total to—	
	Aug. 21 1936	Aug. 21 1937	Aug. 14 1937	Aug. 21 1936	Aug. 21 1937	
VEGETABLES						
Beans, snap and lima	26	14	20	7,950	8,038	
Tomatoes.....	290	323	158	18,881	18,037	
Green peas.....	178	288	272	6,227	5,928	
Spinach.....	0	0	7	7,455	8,132	
Others:						
Domestic, competing directly....	1,049	1,003	767	78,606	78,328	
Imports, competing indirectly....	0	1	5	1	6	
FRUITS						
Citrus, domestic....	1,434	1,145	1,245	121,918	130,761	
Imports.....	54	40	50	115	100	
Others, domestic....	3,920	3,926	4,363	31,281	22,229	

CITES FIBER BOX COMPANY

Federal Trade Commission Charges Improper Stamping of Corrugated Paper Boxes

The Corrugated Container Corporation, 230 Third Ave., Brooklyn, is respondent in a complaint issued by the Federal Trade Commission alleging use of unfair methods of competition in the sale of corrugated paper fiber boxes.

The case involves the company's alleged improper stamping of its products in violation of rules on file with the Interstate Commerce Commission relating to the construction requirements of corrugated paper boxes used in shipments by rail.

Eastern railroads, the complaint sets out, have a so-called official classification committee for maintaining tariffs, regulations and rules pertaining to the transportation of freight, and the Interstate Commerce Commission authorizes commodities to be shipped in corrugated paper fiber boxes at the same rate as commodities packed in wooden boxes if the former meet specific construction requirements. If these requirements are not met, there is a penalty of 20 per cent attached to rates for less than carload-lot shipments, and 10 per cent for carload lots.

The complaint alleges that one of the rules requires that on each corrugated box there shall be stamped an official certification consisting of a circle within a circle, containing the name and address of the manufacturer and the designation "Certificate of Box Maker" and there shall be set forth

concisely a statement of resistance or bursting test in pounds per square inch, dimension limit in inches, and gross weight limit in pounds. It is said that shippers generally understand this custom of stamping corrugated paper fiber containers, and rely upon the representations made in the official certification of the manufacturer.

The respondent company, according to the complaint, places upon certain of its boxes a stamp which is not the usual and official certification required by the classification committee of railroad companies, but simulates it so closely in shape and appearance as to cause railroads and purchasers to accept such boxes in the erroneous belief that the simulated stamp is the official one. It is further alleged that shippers using the respondent company's improperly stamped boxes are thus enabled to obtain the advantage of a lower freight rate without authorization.

Violation of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act is alleged in the complaint, which allows the respondent company 20 days to file its answer.

BROADCASTS ON CANNING

Union Pacific Railroad Announces Series Starting on August 29th

A campaign of institutional advertising using newspapers, radio and direct mail is being conducted by the Union Pacific Railroad, telling of the improvements in transportation, both freight and passenger, made by this railroad. Later programs and advertisements have dealt with the products of some of the major industries in the territory served by the railroad, among them being the lumber, fruit and vegetable, and livestock and meat packing industries.

The current presentation features canned foods, the radio program dramatizing the origin of the canned foods industry and its development and describing the advantages of canned foods. The program is being given over 29 radio stations on the days and at the hours listed below:

		P.M.	September 12—	P.M.
August 29—	KHJ Los Angeles	3:30	KFI Los Angeles	3:45
	KYU San Francisco	4:15	KGO San Francisco	5:45
	KJR Seattle	3:15	KFPY Spokane	3:45
	KDYL Salt Lake City	2:30	KSL Salt Lake City	5:30
	WOW Omaha	12:00	KFAB Lincoln	5:45
August 31—			KOIL Omaha	4:15
	WCCO Minneapolis	12:45	WMAQ Chicago	12:00
			WTCA Minneapolis	5:30
September 1—		P.M.	September 19—	P.M.
	KSD St. Louis	8:45	KLX San Francisco	4:15
			KOIN Portland	3:45
			KOL Seattle	4:45
September 5—		P.M.	KOA Denver	4:45
	KGW Portland	1:30	WIBW Topeka	5:15
	KGIR Butte	4:45	KMBC Kansas City	2:45
	KIDO Boise	2:30	KMOX St. Louis	1:00
	KLZ Denver	2:45		
	WDAF Kansas City	11:15	September 26—	P.M.
		A.M.	KHQ Spokane	3:45
			WGN Chicago	1:00

Food Chain Association Meeting

The National Association of Food Chains has announced that its 1937 meeting will be held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington on October 11, 12 and 13.

Plant Disease Notes

According to the August 15 issue of the Plant Disease Reporter, issued by the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, two plant diseases of economic importance elsewhere in the United States were found for the first time this year affecting crop plants grown extensively in Florida. These were cabbage yellows, found in the winter crop in the vicinity of Bartow, Florida, and scattered in several fields aggregating over 100 acres, and a wilt disease of tomatoes, found in Manatee County.

Losses from cabbage yellows, on the acreage affected, was more than usual, probably due to exceptionally high temperatures and lack of moisture which prevailed during the fall-growing season.

The wilt of tomatoes has not been previously identified in the locality or on vegetable crops elsewhere in the State and has not been heretofore considered normally adapted to Florida environments. It is said to be causing damage, augmented by water injury, up to 100 per cent of the plantings in fields over an area approximately ten miles in diameter.

Corn Borer and Corn Ear Worm

The U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, in the August 1 issue of the Insect Pest Survey Bulletin, announces that the European corn borer was much more destructive than last year in the New England States and New York. Serious damage to tomato fruit from the corn ear worm was reported from the Middle Atlantic and East Central States and in southern California the infestation is apparently increasing. The usual damage to sweet corn by this insect is being generally reported.

Fruits and Vegetables Travel Many Miles to Market

Nearly one-third of the more than 70,000 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables sold last year on the Chicago market—a typical American big city, with year-around demand for fresh products—traveled more than 2,000 miles, and arrived in near-perfect condition, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Ten per cent of the fruits and vegetables traveled more than 2,500 miles to the Chicago market. Another 10 per cent was shipped 1,500 miles; 25 per cent, 1,000 miles; and 22 per cent, including that trucked in from Illinois and nearby States, less than 500 miles.

Vitamin Content of Salmon Cannery Trimmings

In its Investigational Report No. 36 the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries presents the results of its study of the vitamin content of oils from cannery trimmings of salmon from the Columbia River and Puget Sound regions. The findings are summarized in the following statements:

"In considering the biological data collectively the results indicate quite definitely that chinook salmon store practically all of their vitamin A in their visceral fats and much of their vitamin D. The latter, however, is distributed to a considerable extent in the body fats,

"Among the several species of salmon, the oils of chinooks are probably the best source of vitamin A but are the poorest in vitamin D. Pink and chum salmon, on the other hand, are excellent sources of vitamin D and contain little vitamin A. Sockeye and silver salmon oils are good sources of both these vitamins.

"These data further substantiate the importance of salmon cannery waste as a significant source of vitamins A and D."

Copies of the report are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, at 5 cents each.

CANNING CROP FORECASTS

(Continued from page 5341)

Tomatoes

A prospective production of 2,001,700 tons of tomatoes for commercial manufacture is indicated by canners' August 15 reports. While this is a reduction of about 9 per cent from the tonnage indicated on August 1, the crop now in prospect is slightly above the 1936 estimated production of 1,987,500 tons and exceeds the 5-year (1928-32) average production of 1,293,200 tons by nearly 55 per cent.

The August 15 indicated yield of 4.33 tons per acre compares with 4.74 tons per acre estimated for 1936 and exceeds the 10-year (1923-32) average yield of 4.21 tons per acre. The adverse effects of a period of intensely hot weather in the Ozarks, an abundance of rain in New York and Ohio and some recession in the condition of the crop in Indiana were all contributing factors to the lower yields in prospect on August 15.

State	Production		
	5-year average 1928-32	1936	Indi- cated 1937
	Tons	Tons	Tons
New York	83,200	121,000	133,000
New Jersey	181,900	231,200	194,400
Pennsylvania	18,000	95,900	100,800
Ohio	60,400	131,200	76,400
Indiana	247,200	358,800	383,000
Illinois	19,700	27,800	59,800
Michigan	11,500	27,100	38,400
Iowa	21,600	6,100	25,500
Missouri	43,500	1,100	58,200
Delaware	43,600	49,400	44,200
Maryland	139,300	258,500	188,800
Virginia	44,800	55,400	72,400
Kentucky	16,300	5,700	11,400
Tennessee	22,600	15,200	31,600
Arkansas	47,800	1,600	38,600
Colorado	15,400	23,300	22,700
Utah	50,900	55,900	52,100
California	198,100	456,200	391,400
Other States *	27,400	66,100	79,000
Total	1,293,200	1,987,500	2,001,700

* "Other States" include: Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Lima Beans and Beets

Average condition of green lima beans for canning on August 15th was 72.1 per cent, as compared with 77.3 on

the corresponding date last year and with an average of 64.9 per cent for the three years 1930-1932. The condition on August 15th ranged from 50 per cent in New Jersey to 82 per cent in Delaware.

Average condition of beets for canning on August 15th was 79.1 per cent, as compared with 57.5 per cent on the corresponding date of 1936 and with an average of 71.8 per cent for the three years 1930-1932. The lowest condition on August 15th was 61 per cent in Wisconsin and the highest was 90 per cent in New Jersey.

Fruit Crops

Above average supplies of all deciduous fruits at somewhat lower prices than in the fall of 1936 are in prospect, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. In its August fruit situation report the Bureau said that the apple crop will be about 75 per cent larger than last year's, and 25 per cent bigger than the 1931-35 average. The increase over the average is in the Eastern and Central States. Production in the West is slightly less than average.

A 10 per cent increase in the peach crop this year compared with the 5-year average, the largest crop of pears on record, and the largest production of grapes since 1928 were reported. The condition of oranges in California and Florida from the bloom of 1937 is slightly below average, but not greatly different from the condition on August 1 last year.

Outlook for American Prunes in Europe

American producers of dried prunes should find an improved demand for their surplus supplies in European markets this coming season, according to reports to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from its European offices. Prospects appear favorable at all of the major markets with the possible exception of Germany, Poland and Denmark. The improved outlook is based upon the greatly reduced export surplus in the countries of the Danube Basin, the short supplies in most European countries of soft fruits for canning purposes and the continued improvement in European purchasing power. Supplies available for export in California, Oregon and Washington, it is stated, will be considerably larger this year than last.

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